

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 2740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BELGIAN DEMARCHE ON ASSURANCES TO OTHER SIDE
REGARDING SECOND PHASE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: A. USNATO 2581 (NOTAL)

B. USNATO 2582 (NOTAL)

C. STATE 99382 (NOTAL)

1. WILLOT, COUNSELLOR FOR NUCLEAR AND DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS IN
BELGIAN DELEGATION, CALLED ON POLAD MAY 16 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO
MAKE DEMARCHE ON ASSURANCES TO WP RE SECOND PHASE.

2. WILLOT NOTED THAT BELGIUM HAS INQUIRED IN SPC WHETHER U.S.
INTENDED ANY FORCE REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. U.S. RESPONSE, THAT
SECRET

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LANGUAGE IN PRESENT PARA IV OF IS DRAFT (REF A) DOES NOT MEAN
U.S. FORCES WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM SECOND PHASE (REFS B AND C),
STILL LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. WILL DECIDE NOT TO
REDUCE IN SECOND PHASE. HE STATED THAT BELGIUM'S OWN DECISION

ON ASSURANCES TO OTHER SIDE ON WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE "WILL BE VERY MUCH INFLUENCED" BY WHETHER U.S. WILLING TO MAKE ASSURANCES TO REDUCE ITS OWN FORCES IN SECOND PHASE. HE HASTENED TO ADD THAT IN BELGIAN VIEW, SUCH U.S. REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE SMALL, EVEN "SYMBOLIC."

3. WILLOT SAID THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK THIS POSITION FOR TWO REASONS:

A. FIRST, BELGIUM BELIEVES IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GET SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II WITHOUT AT LEAST TOKEN U.S. REDUCTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM POLAD, HE SAID THAT BUNDESWHER REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO GET SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II; THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT PUT ITSELF ON THE SAME LEVEL AS WEST GERMANY. AND WITHOUT SOVIET REDUCTIONS, PHASE II WOULD INVOLVE EXCHANGING GOOD WESTERN EUROPEAN FORCES AGAINST POLISH, CZECH AND EAST GERMAN FORCES, WHO DO NOT HAVE A "COMBATIVE SPIRIT" AND "ARE NOT A THREAT TO US."

B. SECOND, BELGIUM IS CONCERNED THAT IF U.S. DECIDES NOT TO REDUCE AT ALL IN SECOND PHASE, U.S. MIGHT NATURALLY TEND TOWARD ROLE OF OBSERVER IN SECOND PHASE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WOULD LEAVE DISUNITED WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIET UNION BY THEMSELVES. BELGIUM WANTS TO ASSURE ACTIVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SECOND PHASE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WILLOT SAID BELGIUM BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW WITHIN THE ALLIANCE THAT U.S. WILL TAKE PART IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS. KNOWING THIS WILL HELP BELGIUM MAKE ITS OWN DECISION ON INCLUDING BELGIUM IN ASSURANCES TO THE OTHER SIDE ON PHASE II REDUCTIONS. IT WAS ANOTHER MATTER WHEN THE OTHER SIDE WOULD BE INFORMED OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN PHASE II REDUCTIONS. GOB BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT WHATEVER WAS EVENTUALLY SAID TO WP COUNTRIES SHOULD LEAVE WITH THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT U.S. FORCES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN SECOND STATE REDUCTIONS.

5. WILLOT THEN GAVE US THE FOLLOWING DRAFT PARA IV TO IS DRAFT SECRET

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GUIDANCE, WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL BELGIAN SUBMISSION, ALTHOUGH IN WRITING IT HE HAD SOUGHT CONFORMITY WITH HIS INSTRUCTIONS: "THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE WILLING TO ISSUE A COLLECTIVE DECLARATION OF INTENT REGARDING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SECOND PHASE REDUCTIONS, SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH A SATISFACTORY FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT INCLUDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. SUCH A DECLARATION JP THE FORMULATION OF WHICH WILL BE AGREED IN DUE COURSE IN THE COUNCIL, WOULD COMMIT AT LEAST ALL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVING SIZABLE GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS; IT WOULD PREJUDICE IN NO WAY THE REPARTITION OF THE REDUCTIONS AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES THUS COMMITTING THEMSELVES."

6. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

RUMSFELD

SECRET

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